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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Club Calendar

MEETING—July 13, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets. The topic for the evening will be "I Would Like to Know".

FIELD TRIP—July 16, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at 10th Avenue and Fulton Street. Take a No. 5 car or transfer from a "B" or a "C" car to the 10th Avenue bus. Bring binoculars and luncheon.

Sunol Valley

May 14, 1944

After enjoying an alfresco lunch in the Sunol Valley with our friends, I set out to absorb some of the beauty. The road, overhung with trees, led me past a high bank studded with maiden-hair and golden-back ferns with a liberal sprinkling of Diogenes' lanterns, Indian pinks, and blue-eyed grass. In more open spaces yellow and blue lupines, wild hollyhock, pimpernel, and cream cups were growing in irregular drifts.

On the lower side of the road the steep bank offered a wealth of soft, green fronds of woodwardia and sword ferns, wild gooseberry and elderberry. The trees and shrubs included many oaks, buckeye, maples, hazel-nut, and toyon-berry.

Two small creeks tumbled down the hillside, carrying their own music, on their journey to the larger stream flowing down the pleasant valley. Every breeze brought a composite, woodsy fragrance of flowers and trees, the sycamores becoming dominant as I approached the larger stream. Two startled does bounded over the undergrowth and away.

Periodically the shadow of a sailing vulture crossed the road ahead of me. I stopped to enjoy the antics of a pair of red-tailed hawks. Still thinking of gliders a monarch butterfly sailed past and a swallowtail steered an irregular course in its quest for blossoms.

During this time I was refreshed by the song of pileolated and lutescent warblers and the call of a tanager. Western and ash-throated flycatchers, juncos, flickers, and mourning doves were numerous. A yellow warbler sang from a fine, old willow. Occasionally I heard green-backed goldfinches and pine siskins. A black-throated gray warbler, apparently not at all alarmed, gave me a fine opportunity to admire him as he rested for a moment in a live oak.

Coming to a more open meadow I stopped to rest. A purple finch sang his lovely warbling song. An adult male linnet attracted my attention as he sat in the

bright sunlight, singing to his mate as she built her nest in an oak which was liberally festooned with gray-green lichen.

While I was enjoying the linnets, there was a burst of lovely song directly behind me. Presently I found where the song came from as the singer burst forth again. The bird was incubating, its wonderfully fashioned nest secured to a resilient buckeye bough about ten feet above the ground and swaying with every breeze. I walked quietly to a point just below the nest. The singer peered at me but made no attempt to leave—he was almost concealed by leaves. I noted his head markings, a warbling vireo. Again he burst into song.

As we returned to Alameda through more open country east of Sunol, western kingbirds, Say's Phoebe, a sparrow hawk, and a shrike left the wires at our approach. Half a dozen tree swallows were busy bug hunting. Barn swallows flew in and out of a shed adjoining a ranch house. A black phoebe was seen near the concrete bridge at Sunol. Probably its mate was safely housed in its mud nest under the arch.

We had seen the last yellow-billed magpie and bluebird for the day. Red-winged blackbirds and meadowlarks were now in evidence. A mockingbird settled on the wire ahead of us. Blackbirds hunted for food at the sides of the highway as we drove homeward after a delightful outing.

—Angelo Hewetson, Alameda

Junior Trip

The morning of June 10 was cloudy and cold and only three juniors showed up for the trip to John Garber Park and Claremont Hotel grounds. However, under the leadership of Mrs. Ethel Richardson and Miss Clelia A. Paroni, fifteen species were observed and four others heard. The Lazuli Bunting, prize bird of the excursion, was seen and heard on top of a hill behind the Claremont Hotel.

The birds identified were: Quail, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Western Flycatcher (H), Olive-sided Flycatcher (H), California Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Wren-Tit, Thrasher (H), Robin (H), Russet-backed Thrush, Lutescent Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Purple Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Song Sparrow.

The juniors in attendance were Marjorie McGinnis, Helen Coxhead, and Marylin Mattke.

—Helen Coxhead, Historian

Audubon Warblers at Ross

On June 17th an Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni auduboni*) was observed taking a bath in the creek at the birdge near the Ross fire house. About an hour later while walking along Glenwood Avenue where there are large gardens I saw two individuals of this species chasing each other. Finally a full-plumaged male perched upon a wire for more than five minutes. Just once did I hear his song. A padlocked gate and a tall, closely boarded fence prevented exploration for the nest or young.

Some of our Audubon members will remember that on June 14, 1942, we found Audubon Warblers feeding young on the grounds of the State Junior College at Kentfield. For further references see *The Gull*, vol. 24, no. 7, July, 1942.

—Junea W. Kelly, Alameda

June Field Trip

It was not an invasion that struck Ross at church time Sunday, June 11th — just the Audubon Association of the Pacific on one of their merry bird field trips.

But the number that gathered at Ross' main highway did look like the advance guard of the National Audubon Society's annual convention.

Housewives streamed out of their homes, with the excuse of looking for the morning paper, to see what the parade was for up Lagunitas Road. More than fifty members and guests coming from San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, Piedmont, the Peninsula, and even Napa comprised the group. Leaders were Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Harwell, and President Myer.

Kittle Memorial Park, the Fire House grounds, the creek and Ross Common were good birding as always. The Western Tanager seen on Glenwood Avenue is, so far as the writer is able to determine, a first record for June in Marin County. On Phoenix Lake was a Red-throated Loon.

A Western Flycatcher feeding young in the nest and Pileolated Warblers feeding young in the wing-fluttering stage were observed. Sounds coming from a Kingfisher's burrow nest by Phoenix Lake indicated the presence of young. How many in the nest? We did not disturb them.

After the group had lunch together at the end of the public road, the Napa group led by Mr. Harwell left us for Muir Beach. A message from Mr. Harwell reports: "At Muir Beach we saw California and Western Gulls, not many of each and mostly Western. I saw one nest of the Western Gull on a rock offshore from the high bluff north of the beach. The Navy Guards would not let us tarry out there long. Last year there were a lot of nests of Baird Cormorants. This year we could see but four nests of this species."

The day at Ross was sunny. At the beach considerable wind was experienced. The attendance set a new record for this year's field trips. We appreciated the Napa Scouts' attendance and also the Napa Audubon Society's group.

Sixty-one species were observed in the vicinity of Ross, Phoenix Lake, and the road to Alpine Lake:

Red-throated Loon, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Quail, Coot, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, California Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Crested Jay, California Jay, Raven, Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Slender-billed Nuthatch, Creeper, Wren-Tit, House Wren, Bewick Wren, Robin, Monterey Hermit Thrush, Russet-backed Thrush, Western Bluebird, Hutton Vireo, Cassin Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Lutescent Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Brewer Blackbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Willow Goldfinch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Additional species seen at Muir Beach: Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Baird Cormorant, Farallon Cormorant, Western Gull, California Gull, Savannah Sparrow, Nuttall Sparrow. Seen at the approach to the Golden Gate Bridge:

Black-crowned Night Heron, Red-winged Blackbird.

Members attending were Misses Chandler, Elwonger, Kirk, Papina, Paroni, Roscoe, Sterne, Young; Mesdames Austin, Dickman, Deuprey, Kelly, Kilham, Smith; Messrs. Bryant, Fischer, Harwell, Kilham, Kwasky, Myer. There were 36 guests.

—Anna Margaret Smith, San Anselmo

Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

Audubon Warbler, June 7; Red-breasted Nuthatches (pair with young), June 10, 11000 Broadway Terrace, Oakland. Mrs. D. M. Curtis.

Cassin Vireo, May 17; Olive-sided Flycatcher, May 20, 2736 Lyon Street, San Francisco. Joseph J. Webb.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (nest in Eucalyptus), June 11; American Bittern, June 25, Lake Temescal; Caspian Tern, June 24, Lake Merritt. Herman V. Leffler.

Arizona Hooded Orioles (pair feeding young in nest), June 3, Hayward. Amy Rinehart.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee, June 29, Redwood Canyon Regional Park. Junea W. Kelly.

June Meeting

Birding in Iowa was the subject of the interesting lecture by Mr. Albert Kwasky on June 8 at the regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific. Mr. Kwasky, who is also one of our own members, is a member of the Dubuque Bird Club. Excellent birding territory for the club is the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge of 128,000 acres touching on the states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Stimulating interest in the natural history of the area is The American Institute of Nature Studies held every summer in McGregor, Iowa, during the first two weeks of August. This school, founded in 1918 by the Iowa Conservation Association, offers field trips and lectures. Geology, botany, ornithology, entomology, archaeology, photography, and conservation are subjects taught by the faculty, made up of professors of state universities and colleges, conservationists, and federal scientific authorities.

Mr. Kwasky concluded the evening's program by distributing door prizes, appropriately three copies of the recent publication of the State Conservation Commission of Iowa, *Waterfowl in Iowa.* This book by Jack W. and Mary Musgrove is illustrated with colored plates showing not only spring plumages but also the eclipse plumages of fall. It is a book all bird lovers will want in their library. President Arthur H. Myer presided.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.
Membership dues, payable January 1st, $3.00 per year.
Student memberships, $1.50 per year. Life memberships, $50 00
Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.